



Government of the
District of Columbia
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

The STD Control Program wants you to know

Syphilis is Back!

Infectious Syphilis in

The District of Columbia, 1994-2002

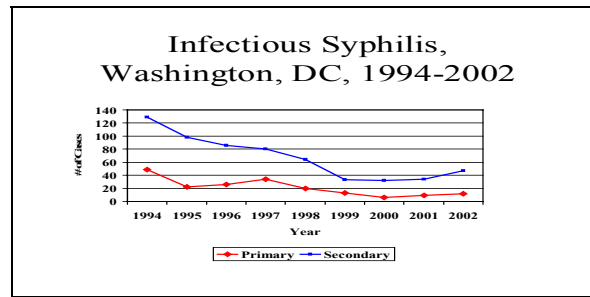
Syphilis is a bacterial, sexually transmitted disease (STD) that progresses in stages. The disease is curable and progression of disease is preventable with treatment. Left untreated, syphilis can cause heart and nerve damages, including blindness.

Syphilis causes genital sores, which increase the likelihood of sexual HIV transmission significantly. Untreated, syphilis can be transmitted from a pregnant woman to her fetus.

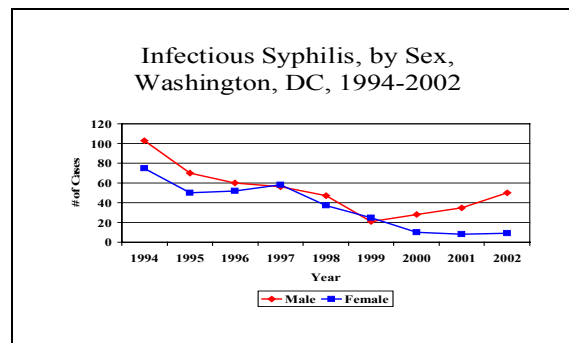
Residents of the District of Columbia may receive Free and Confidential syphilis screening, diagnosis and treatment from the Southeast STD Clinic, located on the grounds of D.C. General Campus, Bldg, # 9 (temporarily), 19th & Massachusetts Ave, SE.

Clinic hours: 8:00am- 3:00pm M-F

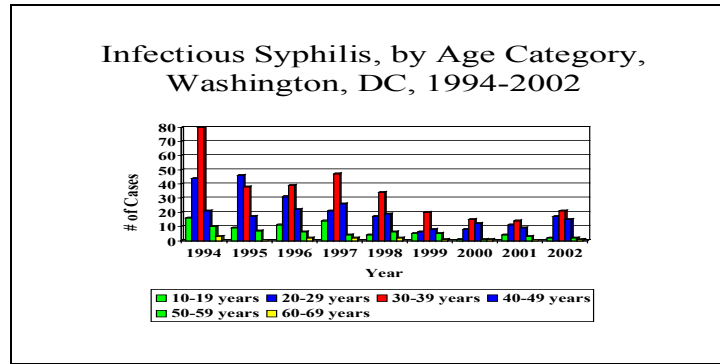
Clinic Phone: (202) 698-4050



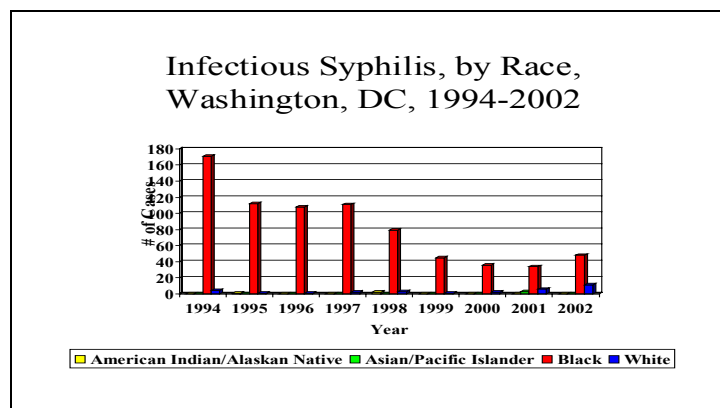
Syphilis is back! Although infectious syphilis cases in the District of Columbia decreased 79% from 1994 to 2000 (from 178 to 38 cases), from 2000 to 2002, infectious syphilis cases increased 55% (from 38 to 59 cases). This is similar to what is happening nationally-after declining every year since 1990, the number of cases of infectious syphilis in the United States increased in 2001.



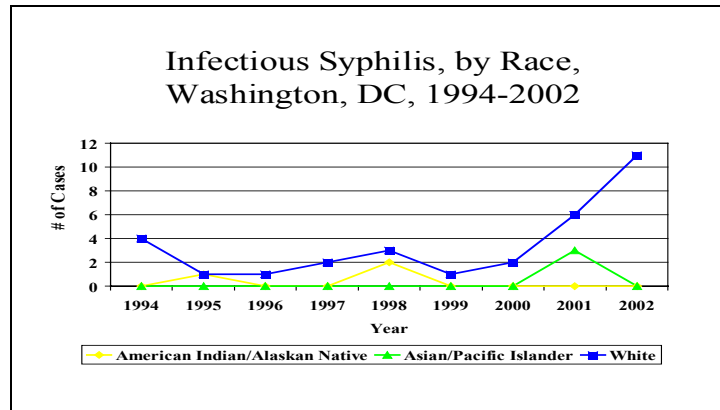
The recent increase in cases of infectious syphilis in the District of Columbia is predominantly among males. Although both male and female infectious syphilis cases decreased from 1994 to 1999 (80% and 67%, respectively), male infectious syphilis cases increased 138% (from 21 to 50 cases) from 1999 to 2002 while female cases continued to decrease 64% (from 25 to 9 cases).



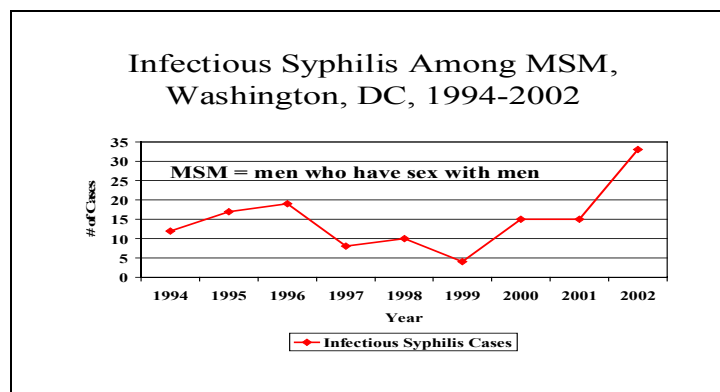
Most cases of infectious syphilis in the District of Columbia occurred in persons 20-49 years of age. In each year from 1994-2002, except 1995, individuals 30-39 years of age accounted for the largest percentage of cases (range: 32-45%). Individuals 20-29 years of age accounted for the second largest percentage of cases (range: 13-38%), followed closely by individuals 40-49 years of age (range: 12-32%).



Most cases of infectious syphilis in the District of Columbia from 1994 to 2002 occurred in African Americans who accounted for between 79.1% (2001) and 98% (1999) of all cases. From 2001 to 2002, infectious syphilis cases among African Americans increased 41% (from 34 to 48 cases).



Although from 1994 to 2002 African Americans accounted for most of the infectious syphilis cases reported in the District of Columbia, from 1999 to 2002, the number of infectious syphilis cases among whites increased 1000% (from 1 to 11 cases).



From 1999 to 2002, the number of infectious syphilis cases that self identified as Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) increased 724% (from 4 to 33 cases). Since 2000, infectious syphilis cases have been on the rise in the District of Columbia, predominantly among white males 30-39 years of age, most likely MSM.

